

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1540

LIMDIS

FOR IO ONLY AND NASA FOR FRUTKIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, AORG, APER, UN

SUBJ: UN SECRETARIAT STAFFING

1. MARVIN ROBINSON, SENIOR OFFICER (DEPUTY CHIEF) OF UN SECRETARIAT'S OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION (OSAD) SOUGHT OUT FRUTKIN, US REP TO CURRENT SESSION OF UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC), ON APRIL 22, ASKING FRUTKIN TO INSTIGATE CONSIDERATION WITHIN USG WHETHER IT WISHED TO SUPPORT ROBINSON FOR POSITION OF OSAD CHIEF WHICH WOULD SOON BECOME VACANT. FRUTKIN AGREED TO BRING MATTER TO APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS' ATTENTION WITHOUT COMMITMENT.

2. ROBINSON SOLICITED MEETING SAME DAY WITH BLACK OF US DEL TO STSC AND AMPLIFIED HIS EARLIER APPROACH WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
SHEVCHENKO (USSR), UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS, HAD CALLED ROBINSON IN PREVIOUS DAY TO TELL HIM FOLLOWING:
(A) ABDEL-GHANI (EGHPT-LONG-TIME OSAD CHIEF) IS RETIRING IN JUNE 1974; (B) SHEVCHENKO WANTS TO NAME ROBINSON TO SUCCEED ABDEL-GHANI; (C) HOWEVER, SHEVCHENKO UNDERSTANDS US WISHES TO RETAIN DIRECTORSHIP OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (PAD) FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED EARLY DEPARTURE OF PRESENT ACTING DIRECTOR STOESSINGER, AND HE "CANNOT
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ACCEPT" MORE THAN ONE US NATIONAL AS DIVISION DIRECTOR

WITHIN HIS DEPARTMENT; (D) CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL IS AN "ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE" FOR OSAD CHIEF; (E) SHEVCHENKO SUGGESTED ROBINSON APPROACH USUN AND ASK MISSION TO SUPPORT HIM FOR OSAD CHIEF (THUS, ROBINSON POINTED OUT, INDIRECTLY SUGGESTING US SHOULD ABANDON ITS "CLAIM" TO PAD DIRECTORATE).

3. ROBINSON DESCLAIMED EXPLICIT LOBBYING EFFORT ON HIS OWN BEHALF, BUT SUGGESTED USG MIGHT CONSIDER ITS POSITION IF CONFRONTED WITH CHOICE BETWEEN PLACING US NATIONAL AT HEAD OF OSAD OR PAD. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW NO BASIS FOR FORCING SUCH CHOICE, BUT THAT SHEVCHENKO HAD BEEN QUITE CATEGORICAL THAT IT WOULD ARISE, ADDING THAT HE "OWED" FRANCE PRIORITY FOR PAD DIRECTORATE IF US OPTED FOR OSAD.

4. ROBINSON POINTED OUT THAT OSAD'S ORIGINAL TROIKA ORGANIZATION PATTERN WAS LONG GONE, BUT EXPRESSED "PERSONAL" GUESS THAT IF HE BECAME OSAD CHIEF, USSR NATIONAL WOULD BE APPOINTED DEPUTY.

5. ROBINSON CONCLUDED WITH REQUEST FOR ADVICE WHETHER TO SEEK USG SUPPORT FOR HIS PROMOTION FROM P-5 TO D-1 RANK; HE HAD BEEN IN PRESENT RANK FOR SIX YEARS AND THOUGHT SUCH SUPPORT COULD BE DETERMINATIVE. HE ADDED, AGAIN DISCLAIMING "LOBBYING" EFFORT, THAT USG MIGHT CONSIDER SITUATION IF HE RESIGNED AND US HAD TO CAST ABOUT FOR ADEQUATELY QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT WHO MIGHT WIND UP AT LOWER LEVEL WITHIN OSAD. BLACK QUEIRED WHETHER LAST POINT RELATED TO ROBINSON'S HYPOTHETICAL NON-PROMOTION OR HIS NON-APPOINTMENT AS OASD CHIEF; ROBINSON MERELY REPLIED THAT APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF WOULD AUTOMATICALLY MEAN PROMOTION.

6. BALCK AGREED, AGAIN WITHOUT COMMITMENT, TO REPLAY ABOVE INFORMATION AND INQUIRY TO APPROPRIATE USG QUARTERS. HE ADDED ENTIRELY PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WAS NOT APPARENT WHY US SHOULD FOREGO CLAIM TO EITHER OF DIRECTORATES IF BEST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR BOTH POSTS HAPPENED TO BE US NATIONALS AND OVERALL NUMBER OF US NATIONALS

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WITHIN DEPARTMENT DID NOT INCREASE.

7. COMMENT: IN JUDGMENT USDEL STSC ROBINSON IS EXPERIENCED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND REASONABLY CAPABLE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT. HOWEVER, HE HAS EXHIBITED NO PARTICULAR FLAIR IN OSAD, NOR HAS HE BEEN CONSPICUOUS IN SUPPORTING USG POLICY INTERESTS IN OSAD CONTEXT; ON OTHER HAND HE HAS NOT ACTED INIMICALLY TOWARD

THEM. WHILE ROBINSON AS DIVISION CHIEF WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OVER ABDEL-GHANI, WHO HAS ON OCCASION ENGAGED IN ACTIONS AGAINST US INTERESTS AND HARDLY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF IN ENERGY OR IMAGINATION, USUN BELIEVES REALISTICALLY IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT HE CAN BE PROMOTED GIVEN FACT THAT USG IS ACTIVELY OPTING TO REPLACE STOESENGER WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN. IF ROBINSON NOT NAMED HEAD OF OSAD AND CZECH SELECTED, EE INFLUENCE IN PSAA, WHICH ALREADY HEAVY, WOULD BE INCREASED. USYG SHEVCHENKO HAS REPEATEDLY LOBBIED USUN ON BEHALF OF ROBINSON FOR REASONS NOT TOTALLY CLEAR (WE BELIEVE SHEVCHENKO WANTS TO ENSURE THAT TOP-LEVEL AMERICAN IN PSAA BE SOMEONE HE KNOWS AND CAN DEAL WITH RATHER THAN HAVING TO TAKE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY WHICH CASE IN OUR NOMINATING REPLACEMENT FOR STOESENGER). NEVERTHELESS, FOR TACTICAL REASONS, WE MIGHT TAKE POSITION ALONG LINES PARA 6 ABOVE.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE SOONEST.
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